

REMARKS

Claims 1-58 are pending in the present application. Claims 4, 14, 48-50, 55 and 57 are objected to, claims 51-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), and claims 48-58 are indicated as having allowable subject matter. Claims 48, 51, 55, and 57 are amended, claims 1-30 are canceled, and claims 31-47 are withdrawn. No new matter is added. The rejections are respectfully traversed in light of the following remarks, and reconsideration is requested.

Restriction

The Examiner indicates that claims 1-30 and 48-58 are a method in one group and claims 31-47 are apparatus in another group and that "during a telephone conversation with Mr. Thomas A. Blinka on August 31, 2000," an election was made to prosecute claims 1-30 and 48-58.

Applicants assert that this is in error, as Mr. Thomas A. Blinka has never been associated with Applicants or Applicants' firm and further that the date of the conversation is before the filing date of the present application. Applicants' attorney Theodore Lopez, however, did elect claims 1-30 and 48-58 around the third week of January 2004. Thus, Applicants affirm the election of claims 1-30 and 48-58 in the present application.

Objections

Claims 4, 14, 48-50, 55, and 57 were objected to for various informalities. Claims 4 and 14 have been canceled, and claims 48, 55, and 57 have been amended according to the Examiner's suggestions.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections.

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Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 51-58 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 51 is amended, as suggested by the Examiner.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated. Claims 1-30 are canceled, thereby obviating the rejection.

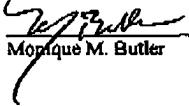
Allowable subject matter

Claims 48-58 were indicated as being allowable.

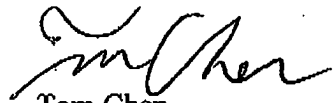
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CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe pending claims 48-58 are allowable, and a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned Attorney at (949) 752-7040.

Certification of Facsimile Transmission	
I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.	
 Montague M. Butler	<u>December 14, 2004</u> Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,


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